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Message Text

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47
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W
---------- 088408
R 251022Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2236
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: PARTY/MEDIA DISPUTES

SUMMARY: SOCIALISTS (PS) AND PARTIDO POPULAR DEMOCRATICO (PPD) CONTINUE TO FLAY SLANTED NEWS COVERAGE. PS HAS DECLINED TO SOFTEN ITS POSITION IN FACE OF COUNTERATTACK FROM AGGRIEVED MEDIA QUARTER. END SUMMARY.

1. IN BACK-TO-BACK MARCH 21 PUBLIC RALLIES SOCIALIST (IN LISBON) AND PPD (OPORTO) ORATORS RENEWED THEIR ATTACKS ON SLANTED NEWS COVERAGE IN THE PRESS, RADIO, AND TELEVISION. REPORTERS PRESENT AT PPD RALLY WALKED OUT EN BLOC IN PROTEST AGAINST CHARGES OF DISTORTED REPORTING. IN CASE OF PS, REACTION
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CAME FROM RADIO CLUBE PORTUGUES (RCP) WHICH RALLY ATTENDERS

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SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION.

2. ACCORDING TO RCP COMMUNIQUE, PS LEADER MANUEL ALEGRE DECLINED TO RESPOND TO ROUTINE QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM BY RCP REPORTING TEAM PRIOR TO RALLY'S OPENING. INSTEAD ALEGRE ALLEGEDLY WARNED RCP TEAM THAT PS LEADERSHIP COULD NOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEAM'S SAFETY SINCE "OUR MILITANTS ARE QUITE FED UP WITH YOU." AT RALLY'S END, RCP MOBILE UNIT AT RALLY SITE BECAME SCENE FOR VERBAL AND (ALLEGEDLY) PHYSICAL CONFRONTATIONS. LATER SAME EVENING CROWD OF PS SYMPATHIZERS GATHERED OUTSIDE RADIO STATION'S FACILITIES IN THREATENING MANNER, FORCING RCP TO CALL FOR INTERVENTION OF COPCON.

3. PPD RESPONSE:
PPD ISSUED COMMUNIQUE RESPONDING TO REPORTERS' WALKOUT WHICH, WHILE MAINTAINING PARTY'S POSITION, WAS CONCILIATORY IN TONE. SAID IF SOME OF PPD FAITHFUL PRESENT AT RALLY SHOWED DISRESPECT TOWARD PRESS REPS, PPD OFFICIALLY APOLOGIZED.

4. PS RESPONSE: ON MARCH 23 PS DEMONSTRATORS PROTESTED ANEW IN FRONT OF RCP STATION FACILITY. PROTESTERS DEMANDED THAT RCP BROADCAST PS STATEMENT ON EVENTS OF MARCH 21. STATEMENT DENIED THAT MANUEL ALEGRE IN ANY WAY "THREATENED" RCP REPORTING TEAM OR THAT TEAM WAS PHYSICALLY ABUSED AFTER RALLY'S CONCLUSION. STATEMENT JUSTIFIED UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF PS MILITANTS TOWARD RCP ON BASIS STATION'S "SHOCKINGLY UNEQUAL STANDARDS" TOWARD VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS.

5. COMMENT: PPD BLAST AT BIASED MEDIA NEWS COVERAGE AND SUBSEQUENT BACK PEDALLING DEMONSTRATE PARTY'S ALTERNATING AGGRESSIVENESS AND CAUTION IN COMBATTING HOST OF ATTACKS IT FACING FROM LEFT AFTER EVENTS OF MARCH 11. PS SEEMS TO HAVE SURMOUNTED ANY SUCH QUALMS.
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750104-0070
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750319/aaaaaqkm.tel
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Secure: OPEN
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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